

Remarks

Claims 3-15, 17 and 18 are currently pending in the subject application. Claim 18 has been amended to recite thyroxine as the thyroid related substance, which the Examiner has indicated would be supported by the parent provisional application (see below).

A correct drawing Figure 3 is submitted herewith. The corrected drawing contains the correct spelling of photocoagulation in the y-axis. Applicant submits a separate drawing showing the correction in red ink. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to Figure 3 be reconsidered.

Correction of Filing Date

Applicant provides a copy of the USPTO decision granting Applicant's Petition to Correct Filing date and copy of Corrected Filing Receipt. Accordingly, the subject application complies with all the requirements to receive benefit of priority to Provisional Application No. 60/188,483.

Novelty Issues

Claims 3-6, 17, and 18 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Grant et al abstract. Applicant asserts that in view of corrected filing date, this rejection is obviated. The Grant et al. abstract is no longer prior art. Reconsideration is requested.

With respect to the Examiner's comments regarding a possible rejection under 35 USC § 102(a) (item 7 of office action), Applicant submits herewith a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131. As the declaration states, Applicant, Maria Grant, conceived of the invention prior to the publication of the cited Grant Abstract. Accordingly, the Grant Abstract is not a prior art reference under the alternate basis of 35 USC § 102(a).

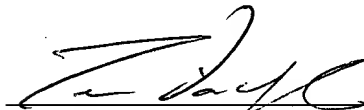
Obviousness issues

Claims 7-13 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over the Grant et al abstract. Applicants reiterate the remarks in the preceding three paragraphs, which apply to this rejection as well. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 14 and 15 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over the Grant et al abstract and in further view of Patel et al. Applicants reiterate that the valid priority claim to the '483 application. Accordingly, in view of removing the primary cited reference as prior art, the present rejection is obviated. Reconsideration is requested.

All grounds for rejection or objection having been addressed and overcome herein, it is respectfully urged that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants request that the Examiner call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any aspect of this Reply, or if the Examiner believes a telephonic interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application.

Respectfully submitted,



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